

work with practical work in institutions that lend themselves to your particular class of work. By that I mean institutions for incurables, convalescents, certain classes of children's hospitals, or even small general hospitals without training schools in which there is difficulty in securing probationers. The question is bound to be asked why not general hospitals with training schools? The answer is that experience has proved in those hospitals that have combined the attendants' course with the nurses' course that it has not been successful. The attendant has had relegated to her the most menial duties of the wards without the interesting nursing care to make this drudgery bearable. There is inevitable jealousy and friction between the two classes of pupils."

DANGERS TO PHYSICIANS IN NARCOTIC SITUATION

Occasionally physicians, through misconception of law, make serious mistakes in their observation of the Harrison Narcotic Act of the State Pharmacy Act. It appears certain enforcement agents of either the National or State Government find pleasure in taking advantage of even the smallest technicality in accusing a physician of violation of the narcotic law.

Several physicians guilty of only technical violation have been arrested. Frequently the charge is prescribing a narcotic not in good faith. To such a charge a physician makes himself liable should an individual come to his office pleading sudden illness and asking for a narcotic. It occasionally happens that an individual will come to the physician's office stating that he is an habitual user, requesting a tablet or two or more to tide him over until he can reach some alleged destination. Valuable information on this subject may be found on pages 17, 18 and 19 of the directory published by the Board of Medical Examiners and distributed to every individual licensed to practice in this State.

Every physician should familiarize himself with Section 8 of the Pharmacy Act, which requires that a report by registered mail, addressed to the office of the State Board of Pharmacy, must be made by a physician undertaking the cure of an addict "within 24 hours after the first treatment."

When a physician has been arrested on technical violation of any of the above, it has been reported that he is advised to plead guilty, pay a nominal fine, usually \$100, and thus escape unpleasant publicity or notoriety. Such advice should be refused because admission of guilt forms a part of the court records, puts a stigma upon the physician, and makes it incumbent upon the Board of Medical Examiners to review the case, with the possibility of revocation of license as provided under Section 14 of the Medical Practice Act. They are also easy to punish because they have both reputation and social standing to consider.

We cannot be overzealous in advising physicians not to plead guilty of infraction of the law, unless they are actually guilty, without first consulting our office. Physicians are quick to relieve distress, thus making them easy prey.

OF SUCH ARE STATISTICS MADE!

According to the Sacramento "Union" a large program of medical examination and welfare work is being carried on for the children of Sacramento County under the jurisdiction of the local chapter of the Red Cross and Mr. Hughes, city superintendent of schools, and aided by nurses.

"Three hundred and eighty-seven youngsters were weighed and measured, and 183 were given a physical examination by the nurse." It is further stated that the welfare work in the city of Sacramento has become active with the opening of the fall term of the schools. This work "will be handled directly by a staff of three, consisting of one director and two nurses, who will watch the health of Capital City youngsters with a professionally trained eye. Heretofore the health of the Sacramento school children has been observed by the director of physical training." When nurses make physical examinations and "watch the health of children with a professionally trained eye" under the direction of a superintendent of education or a "physical director," what may we expect next? School teachers sometimes, and school nurses more often, are heard to say that they have added the practice of medicine to their other duties. What do the physicians of Sacramento think of this procedure?

CORRESPONDENCE COURSES FOR PUBLIC HEALTH NURSES

There was a time when correspondence courses for physicians, nurses, engineers and other professions were in vogue. Then the light of publicity was turned upon these institutions and most of them disappeared. Out of the social, educational and economic chaos of the last few years the idea of correspondence courses appears to have been revived. Some of the institutions offering these courses and advertising them so extensively are of such questionable character that they do not require any special consideration. However, it is a matter of interest and concern to physicians, nurses and other legitimate health workers when the health service of a great State, supported by two well-known universities, enters this field and proposes to educate public health nurses by correspondence. In a mimeographed news sheet recently "released" this combination of organizations state that they have had 287 applications for enrollment in the first course, of which 229 have paid the matriculation fee and have been accepted.

CANCER WEEK

Cancer week for this year is November 12 to 18. The purposes of Cancer Week are now so well recognized by the medical profession that it ought to be necessary only to call attention to the dates to secure the co-operation of physicians in the efforts of the American Society for the Control of Cancer.